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"History of Vitt Ariskt Motstånd / White Aryan Resistance (VAM)"

The following is a reconstruction of a historical meeting.

It was on April 20, 1991 in a meeting room in the Medborgarhuset in Stockholm. In the fund hangs a large Swedish flag, to the right of it a banner from the Third Reich and to the left an American southern state flag. A long and common black-clad man gives a short introductory speech, in the audience sits a collection of men of different ages - some black-clad, others in traditional skinhead. After the introductory speech, a middle-aged man enters the pulpit. His name is Göran Assar Oredsson, for over thirty years the leader of the Nordic National Party. He gives a long talk about "the life of the great leader" and about the "debt problem". After the speech, a fundraiser will be held in favor of Tommy Rydén, leader of the Creativist Church, who at this time is serving a four-month long prison sentence for incitement against ethnic groups.

The one who started the meeting is back in the pulpit, he talks about the new movement and about the fight - hands are raised to greet. He screams: "It was not to see our race go out of the race mix that the man who was born on April 20 gave his life".

When the meeting ends, the younger men in the congregation head towards central Stockholm - to continue the celebration of Adolf Hitler's 102nd birthday. They come from the Nordic Reich Party, Creativists Church, the people around the newspaper Storm and the Association of Sweden's Future. At the meeting there are also some older men who, during the 1930s and 1940s, held leading positions within the National Socialist organizations of the interwar period.

This meeting can to some extent be said to be the birth of the modern groups. It is at least the beginning of a very expansive phase of the movement.

In 1991, the network became known to a larger public through a series of well-known burglaries and bank robberies. On April 11, 1991, just before the meeting in the Medborgarhuset, four men broke into the police station in Lidingö and stole 36 guns. On May 9, seven people were arrested on suspicion of trying to break into a mobilization store in Upplands Väsby. All of them belonged to the racialist-underground culture. The suspects are released after questioning.

On May 23, some of the weapons from the Lidingö-heist were found at one of the suspects from the burglary in Upplands Väsby. Two suspects disappear from the scene and are arrested almost three months later in Funäsdalen. They are then suspected of having robbed a bank in Vemdalen on July 27.

On August 9, the term "White Aryan Resistance (VAM)" appeared for the first time in the media. Previously, the group has been referred to as an NRP group (Nordic Reich Party).

Originally, the network did not have an official name, there was only talks about "fronts", of which the Stockholm group was one. According to a leading activist, the network was also not supposed to have any official name. One of the founders, Christopher Ragne, describes the group's creation as follows:

"It started with a few, what should I say, yes we came from Stockholm for the first time. Let's say, what can we have been? Between 5-10 people from the beginning. We had discussed in loose terms that it was needed something more militant.

Something that was really militant and that stood up to be militant whatever happened, and that was probably all included at the time.

Unfortunately, we did not discuss it all in the first place, then we might have avoided some mistakes from the beginning, there were some differences internally about how this would go on. There would be no name for this project, or what it would be, it would be to spread information and simply radicalize our site, under the surface so as a joke when we were sitting down there in the inner group, there was someone at the time who mentioned VAM and it was definitely not meant to be an organization called VAM. But those who stood for it, who had what I had wanted to claim the real revolutionary-mind ended in a bit of mishap then and had to live chased for a while.

And during that time, the others took over who may not have the truly revolutionary attitude, who would rather have it appear and think more about what it looked like than it really was. It then started to launch VAM and use our names as some kind of role models, but they did not really know what we wanted, therefore it will end then.

VAM was laid down by those who have been designated as the ones who led and directed VAM and it is they who also put it down."

Another leading activist, who did not, however, belong to the original so-called VAM group explains the process as:

"After Storm had been running for a while, voices from several directions were raised that we should have something more organized around the whole thing, something in the style of WAR in the United States, so no members, no membership cards or stuff there, but a loose organization where all the groupings could be included.

In Storm, the Creativists, the Nationalists, the National Socialists, etc. could unite and do an active job that favored the fight so to speak - that was the idea. But nothing ever came from Storm, and then when I jumped off then it came off even more and then I

have had no contact with them at all. Then in the spring VAM showed up, and how many people there are behind it I have no idea either. I personally think it is like we say within the church a one-man company and then there are probably people around that spread leaflets, do some postings and stuff like that."

Klas Lund - another of the original activists - describes the group's creation:

"There is, after all, an American organization called White Aryan Resistance... and from the beginning we were a group, a small organization, which had it as a working name only first... but thanks to the media, it became more than a working name... Yes, the organization was there but the name, especially VAM, is created by the media."

The name VAM first appeared - together with Young National Socialists in Sweden (UNS) and Gothenburg and Borås SA - on a flyer produced by the Gothenburg-group a few months before the network became public. After the name "VAM" was launched in the press, the network adopted this name for a number of reasons.

A Swedish TV documentary on the growing neo-Nazism in Germany - "Wahrheit Macht Frei" - which was shown in September 1991 markedly increases the mass media interest in the racial ideological network. The trials of prominent activists that take place after the film's screening get a lot of space in the media. They are also used internally for recruitment purposes.

In Storm no. 4/1991 states, *inter alia*:

"At the time of writing, we do not know how it will go for the Order in ZOG's litigation. But we can at least salute Earl, who appeals to all Aryans with a snapping racial pride inboard to get their thumbs out of the ass and help VAM to victory. He also welcomes the trial to be a display of genuine white dignity and therefore asks all posers to stay away. However, all serious Aryan freedom fighters are more than welcome."

In a report in Storm of the trial in Sveg, potential activists are invited to step out of the shadows and do their duty. During this period, VAM will be the first page material together with the so-called "Laser-man" serial killer, who killed one immigrant and injured ten other at this time.

In December 1991, a wave of b*mb threats and assaults attributed to VAM also occurred. Most of the threats are false and the b*mb that explodes at Stockholm Central turns out to be broken by a bank robber, the one who went by the name "Military League". According to Norwegian researcher Tore Bjorgo, these events help to indicate that "the VAM group and other racialist revolutionaries could shake the ZOG (Zionist Occupied Government)". The massive exposure of the group helps to shape a picture of it as an armed and secret organization.

The attention was hastening, to some extent, the formation of the network. The mass media makes the symbols, uniforms, contact addresses and message known to a larger public. This will partly contribute to the criminal youth gangs and others who have previously had racist opinions suddenly finding an expression of their thoughts and a basis for some of their crime. However, these groups are found on the outskirts of the actual network and are sometimes completely unknown to those who are part of it.

These "racist freelancers" posed and are also a problem for the network's core activists in that they cannot be controlled. For example, a number of leading activists have complained about the problems they have with getting rid of "certain madmen" who act in the name of the network without being approved as members.

For example, the Gothenburg Group complains that they have attracted "suspicious types", such as "come forward and show some membership card in the Sweden Democrats and say: *Hey you, I want to join.*" and "addicts who think it's cool".

The Gothenburg activists claimed in 1991 that they were only interested in recruiting "ordinary, simple Swedish youth". Another activist comments on the problem as follows: "VAM probably was more of a name, that's how it attracted a hell of a lot of shady types, Hollywood Nazis.

Christopher Ragne talks about this development with VAM:

"[...] what we didn't want, that's when it became a play school for 16-year-olds who talked very revolutionarily, but a 16-year-old can't be 100% revolutionary. It requires some development, some know-how, both ideologically and technically, and then there is no child's play.

Therefore, it is a high price you have to pay and it is a consideration you have to take before."

Another activist points out that it is not only the media attention that has caused the movement to attract more or less violent people but more hard-hitting White Noise-rock bands, such as *Pluton Svea*, who got "the wrong people interested in the movement". While bands like the Creationist group *RAHOWA*, on the other hand, attracted the type of people they wanted to contact, as well as women.

Between July and September 1992, seven activists were convicted of preparing for armed robbery. In November of the same year, an activist from Stockholm was convicted of armed robbery and a leading activist, together with two skinheads, was convicted in January 1993 for attempted robbery. This meant that large parts of the core-activist group ended up in prison - a relationship that previously used to lead to a serious break in the business and large losses of members and sympathizers, which took a long time to repair. The activities continue regardless

without major interruptions, and the interest increases rather than decreases, which indicates that this is a new development.

Production and distribution of propaganda material increased significantly during 1992. At the end of 1992, the newspaper, Storm, mail order operations, white power rock bands and VAM's telephone line constituted the network's open propaganda activities.

In the spring of 1993, some of the leading actors in the racial ideological underground world once again tried to resolve ideological and personal conflicts that again flared up to create a kind of "consensus solution" and "division of labor", attached to the penultimate issue of Storm, declaring that VAM ceases to exist as a public movement and will henceforth devote itself entirely to underground activities.

The "program declaration" makes the following breakdown of future activities:

"This means that the Swedish resistance movement is today divided into two" main camps"; namely the parliamentary as well as the revolutionary. the religious branch of the Ben Klassen Academy (BKA) and the militant branch of the White Aryan Resistance (VAM)."

The "program declaration" calls for unity and activists are invited to join the branch of the activity they consider themselves most suitable.

In 1993 Storm was closed down after a last number which includes names, addresses, telephone numbers and the like of people who are designated as "enemies of the white race".

The publication receives legal implications. In June 1995, a leading Stockholm activist was sentenced to four months in prison for rioting for one of the articles published on "Enemies to the Movement". An activist in Malmö who sold some copies of the newspaper is sentenced in Malmö District Court, but does not face further penalties after he already has to serve a prison sentence for other crimes. These are two of the few judgments related to published by designated enemies' names and addresses.

The reasons for the closure of the magazine are, among other things, the irregular publication and according to the publishers *it no longer has the same significance as it had during VAM's most active time.*

During their imprisonment, several leading former members joined the "National Front", the successor to the "Association of Sweden's Future", one of the few political parties of this kind formed during this period.

What's going under the designation VAM in the mass media is thus in reality a series of - sometimes rival - small groups of floating member cadres. VAM can thus be said to have

been a kind of franchise business, through which various local small groups were able to acquire knowledge, materials and get advice and tips on how to run a business of this kind. Throughout its existence, VAM is largely ideology-producing. However, like most of its predecessors and successors, the network lacked financial resources and the ability to keep the divided small groups together.

In a look back at the *Storm*-successor *Nordland*, it is argued that *Storm* was a mistake ideologically, strategically and morally. The author, who, interestingly enough, with certainty bordering on probabilities himself, belonged to the leaders behind *Storm* - thinks that *Storm* sold on "hate and anger" and that the newspaper contained nothing positive for the movement. He writes:

"[...] It contained no articles that addressed the fine cultural heritage that our people own. It did not make many attempts to implant a positive sweetness in the readers of our history and race.

*The readings presented by *Storm* were almost exclusively violence-fixed and fantasy-revolutionary, meaningless violence will only lead to further activists being imprisoned was published, which cannot be considered serious. Regardless of provocations, it should not be repeated. Intelligent and active resistance is the only sensible way forward for the movement.*

The racial ideological network was completely isolated from the mainstream in Swedish politics - without the possibility of either dialogue or influence. Nor was it ever interested in influence or in reforming society. The goal, instead, was to crush society and those who served it. The dream was a new society based on "racialist-socialist principles".

During the first half of the 1990s, a number of local, self-governing small groups with more or less permanent activities emerged in the wake of VAM and the extensive attention that the media devoted to the racial ideological network.

Attempts to create national organizations of a more traditional nature are gradually abandoned in favor of local groupings. This is to a large extent a break with previous concepts and the beginning of a new development phase.

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